Its Various Departments and Manifest Advantages.

THE SYSTEM EMPLOYED

Renders-How Cutalogues Made-Systems of Print for Blind Readers-Interesting Features of

Since the doors of the new Library of Congress have opened to the public the journalistic pen has been taxed to its utmost capacity in descriptions of the building's architectural splendor, its vivid coloring, rich, fantastic paintings, ornate designs and its ingenious workmanship from the standpoint of engineering skill, Yet the building itself is but the busk around the grain, the body housing the composite spirit of past and present ages; so that vast structure of stones, costly bronze doors, and a \$30,000 gilded roof, are of far less importance in reality than many a plainly-bound volume. in the market for 25 cents, but rich in that which stirs into being the soul's

highest aspirations. The collection of books moved into the new Library, and which promises to become in the future one of the most complete in the world, obtained its first great impetus toward systematic growth about the beginning of Mr. Spofford's tenure of office, in 1864. Before that period attempts were made at establishing the Library on a good basis; such attempts being partially frustrated by the burning of the Capitol by the British, and by the subsequent unsettled condition of affairs up to the close of the civil war, affairs up to the close of the growth of the Library has been phenomenal, and the usefulness to the people increased an hundredfold. From 70 000 volumes in 1864 it has increased to 787,715, the last pub-

### The New Library The wonder was, when Mr. Young a

sumed the duties of librarian, not that he found such masses of unclassified material packed away in cramped quarters at the Capitol, but that Mr. Spofford and his little band of employes had managed to keep nearly everything in the shape of reading matter, for which there might be a call, accessible to Congress and the people. So skilled were they in their du-ties that none but themselves realized thoroughly the need for new quarters. This need has been fully satisfied in the new building. During the new building. During the one year of its occupancy, expansion along all lines has made the Library's availability for pub-ic use so great, that its general reading room hids fair some day to partake of the nature of a National University, as it is already our greatest bureau of in-formation. Here in this reading room is the center of the Library's usefulness. The casual sightseer, who stands with dilated eye and mouth agape in the laby-rinth of surrounding corridors and marble archer, listening attentively (perhaps) to the measured monotone of a guide spinning out the history of each object of inning out the history of each object of in-terest, goes back to his home without a conception of the work the reading-room is doing, not only for Washington people, but for those in the remoiest sections of the country. About forty persons of the 133 comprising the entire force are em-ployed in connection with this depart-ment. There are several assistants to the chief, hesides a number of attendants em-poyed, in distributing books and replacing p.oygd, in distributing books and replacing

them on the sheives The duties of the assistants require a trained body of librarians for their performance, while these of the chief of the sive experience in library work; for while it is not necessary that he should himself know everything in connection with print. ed publications, he must know exactly where such information may be found, since it is to this free dispensary of knowledge that people now flock, not so much as formerly to obtain a particular back. book as to investigate special subjects In its capacity as a bureau of information the department has propounded to it ev-ery variety of question under the sun. a reader may call, and all possible assist-ance is rendered him. There is also a large correspondence carried on with the departments. Requests for information come daily from all sections of the United States. The information is furnished typewritten and free of charge, and no question, however trivial, is ignored. The work even extends to copying long ex-tracts from rare books for those to whom the Library is not accessible, making the latter in truth of benefit to the whole na-There are many calls from a distance for public documents, and whenssible these are procured and sent.

The Regulations.

Dissatisfaction has been expressed in Washington that the general public may no longer take books from the Library on payment of a deposit to secure their safe but excellent reasons are furnished for the withdrawal of the privilege. Every other facility being given the stu dent to aid his researches, he might of-ten be handicapped in the beginning of his work, by finding the very book which he would need most out of the library, Then the extra work entailed upon the clerks hardly paid for benefits accruing to home readers, whose wants will be supplied by the new municipal library 15,000 volumes as a beginning. This li-brary will supply the class of books usually in demand by the average brary will supply the class of books usually in demand by the average reader. So much has been said in regard to facilities afforded those engaged in research work that the impression is likely to go abroad that the reading-room is intended soiely, or at least chiefly for that purpose. This, however, is not the case. While enlarged opportunities and more particularly the night opening, at which time a majority of readers are letter Bibles of early dates; Luther's Ger-man version, and others. There is a copy of the Bible used by George Washington on exhibition. It is hoped that in a short time the Library may have editions of which it has been translated. In glancing through the pages of the old books it is interesting to note the style of the title pages, so different are they from those of today. One old volume, entitled, "His-arry of the Life Death and Exploits of nature rather than for pastime, have re-cently given such investigations a great impetus, the Library exists to serve all cently given such investigations a great page. After a long preamble of presenta-impetus, the Library exists to serve all tation, the price is printed in large let-classes, to be in the truest sense a universal library center; and the reader of fiction is as welcome as the digger for Greek roots, or the delver in the mines. of philosophy. The force in the mines of philosophy. The force in the reading-room is bardly more than adequate for current work, but by special effort great progress has been made in classifying books. For the convenience of the clerks, works most popularly in demand, such as

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history, biography, and some action, are grouped in shelves surrounding the read-ing room. The ample accommodations of the new building have made practicable the differentiation of the work of the Library, so that there are now different de-partments devoted to cataloguing, copp-rights, manuscripts, music art. etc. B-sides the general reading-room. Mr. Hutcheson has in charge the one for Senators and Representatives, the pavi-ion for the blind, reading-room at the 'apitol, and the care of books and book-

The last Congressional appropriation gave the library \$23,000 for the purchase of the general library; \$2,500 for law books; \$1,500 for books of reference for the Supreme Court; \$1,500 for exchange of publie documents for publications of foreign governments; \$2,500 for purchase of files This amount is but a drop in the bucket of the Library's need, but it has enabled efforts to strengthen the resources of the ollection, to accomplish good results in have been made, and the library, already the largest in the country, numbers near-800,000 volumes, exclusive of pamphlets and unbound periodicals. It is particu-larly rich in matter relating to the Amer-ican Continent, and foreign works are coming in more rapidly than in former ears. Large accessions are being made by copyright and purchase of books on Spain. Cuba, the Philippines and Hawaii, too, come in for a good share. As soon as Congress convenes, there will be pubiished a catalogue of works on Spain During the past year four bulletins have seen published by the Library—No. 1, Copyright Law with Annotations;" No.

"List of Books Relating to Cuba;" Alaska and Northwest Territory. No. 5 will have Spain for its title. Mr. Young is constantly endeavoring to impress upon Congress the need of a larger appropriation to strengthen the collection of books along special lines. "Numerically," he says, "it is strong, but there are great Examples selected at random are typical of a few of these varieties. "What is the date of the thirty years' war?" "How much chloroform is required to kill a cat?" "Why did Oregon have but one Senator during the last session of Constant of the collection of the says, "It is strong, but there are great deficiencies in such departments as musical literature, medical science, archaeology, natural science, useful arts, theology and philology, especially in the romance Senator during the last session of Congress?" In addition to queries such as technical subjects, making it necessary to supply the student with everything of importance relative to his studies. There is no limit to the number. technical subjects, making it necessary to plores the last that most representation, supply the student with everything of 'm-portance relative to his studies. There is no limit to the number of books for which a reader may call, and all possible assistance is rendered him. There is also a which the library is divided, being devotance in the studies of the forty-four, into ance is rendered him. There is also a ed to her publications. France comes next, followed by Germany. Spain is fourth. In regard to our growing inter-course with Spanish-American countries, and the need for more works relating to them, Mr. Young says: The Spanish-merican countries have done some cred-itable work in that regard, especially Chile and Peru. We have the record of z series of valuable documents pertaining to the discovery, conquest and organiza-tion of the Spanish colonies of America. The first series is necessary to our col-

The rare books of the library number The rare books of the inerary number two or three thousand, some of which are on exhibition in glass cases in the northwest corridor of the building. Several of the most important are: The earliest editions of Shakespeare's works, first edition of "Paradise Lost," first edition of "Pierce Plowman's Vision," 1550, and other than the state of er copies of old English writers. There is an old volume of newspapers contain-ing the Pennsylvania Evening Post, with the first pripted copy of the Declaration of Independence. Among the rare copies of the Bible are the Bishop's Bible. 1363; Cranmer's Version, 1540; Coverdale's Verto home readers, whose wants will be supplied by the new municipal library soon to be in operation with a nucleus or 15.000 volumes as a beginning. Tais limore particularly the night opening, at which time a majority of readers are found to be engaged in work of a serious George Washington," has a lengthy and verbose descriptions of itself in the title

The Catalogue Department. The "Open Sesame" to the treasure of the Library is the catalogue department, for by means of its ramifying, yet systematic arrangement, the army of books is marshaled out on its mission of Cancers Cured With out the Knife

All persons afflicted with tumors of any kind should consult the cancer specialist. Dr. Charles Allen. Living witnesser testify to his skill. An experience of nearly forty years ensures success. Don't use the knife, it hastens death. Patients from abroad will be cared for in the Sanatarium. Don't allow your family physician to prejudice you in this matter. Consider your own salety, and learn that there is one who can cure this disease, while others fail. Don't delay. SANI. Blography. Descriptions of all countries, takifum, 1220 G st. nw. no29-tif,em enlightenment, without any one of its

calogy, Heraldry, Costume, Medicine, Theology, Mathematics, Music, etc. The force employed in the cutalogue depart-ment numbers sixteen persons, but there is work enough to be done to utilize several times as many.

Mr. J. C. M. Hanson, chief of the de-Mr. J. C. M. Hanson, chief of the department, assumed the office in 1887, with but seven persons under his direction. By January, 1898, the work was somewhat systematized, and the first accession catalogue of the Library of Congress was commenced. The accession catalogue is a volume in which are recorded the foilowing facts concerning a book when it first comes to the Library, date of entry, source, whether by gift, copyright, purchase, or international exchange; kind of binding; cost, etc. By reference to a cerinding; cost, etc. By reference to a certain date, one may see what books came into the Library on that day. Each ac-cession volume contains 16,000 volumes. A stamping apparatus, which prints numbers up to 99,999, stamps the number given a certain volume in the accession catalogue, and then on the verso of the title page of the book. An assistant or reader cost, etc., of the book, may note the num-ber on the back of its title page and then refer to the same number in the accession catalogue where the information may be found. One accession book is already full desiring to know something of the source, found, One accession book is already full, while the second has almost reached No.

Department of Ordering and Recelving.

From this department are sent out or-From this department are sent out or-ders for books to be purchased for the Library. Books thus obtained are chiefly

At the main desk, near the door of the how many of our writers fall to copyright their productions. Efforts are made to procure most of these for the Library and as a large mass of the material already on hand still remains uncatalogued, it requires skill and experience to avoid duplication, especially in ordering Ameri-

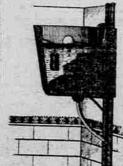
The old official catalogue of the Library is being kept up. This means that for a majority of books an author entry only is made. The annual report to September 30, 1898, is now nearly completed. A point has been reached in the cataloguing, where for all copyright books there will be fifty copies printed of each main or author card. This will permit a beginning to be made for a public card catalogue, which will include, besides the author entries, title entries and subject entries for biographical and bibliographi-cal works. As soon as additions to the force permit, this will be extended to in-clude all the features of a full diction-ary catalogue. These printed entries are made according to the bibliographical style, adopted by a majority of American libraries on the standard size card, known as the three by five card.

At present it is necessary to continue the old system of classification in a majority of the forty-four chapters of the Library. In those sections containing works which relate to writing, paleography, printing, library, science and bibliography, reclassification is nearly completed. The new system is eclectic in its nature, and, while not absolutely based upon any individual printed scheme an attempt has been made to include the best features of all the main systems The so-called expansive classification system has been utilized as muc't as any, although it is still in progress of publica

The Notation Used in the New Clas-

Certain symbols, either letters or figures, show definitely in what section of the Library a book may be found. The notation adopted has much in common with the system now being introduced a Harvard Library, as also with that pro

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posed by Mr. Brown, of the Clerkenwell Library, England, the latter being known as the adjustable system of classifica-tion. Mr. Brown's system bromises to find great favor among England librari-ans.

tion. Mr. Brown's system bromises to find great favor among Entish librarians.

Mr. Hanson gives the following condensed exposition of the method used in the library: "Each lotter of the alphabet is used to represent a certain class or classes, in a systematic arrongement of all books in the library. Thus, Z stands for writing, printing, library, science, bibliography, which division may in one word be called the book arts. Under Z subdivisions are denoted by figures in strict numerical sequence. Thus Z-40 is the mark which denotes books on writing in general, Z-250 printing, Z-671 library periodicals. Without using more than five places 9,260 sections can be denoted in this way under each letter. Under each section books falling within it are generally arranged alphabetically by author or title. Thus, in Z-671, library periodicais, the 'Centralibiatt fur bibliothekswesen' would receive the mark Z-671 C-33, which, when presented at the desk, will produce the set known by this name. It will not be necessary to add the title. If any special year or volume is wanted, that must be added on the call slip.

The Library has a considerable collection of reference works in the catalogue department, consisting mainly of printed library catalogues, such as Congressional Library Catalogue, that of the British Museum, index catalogue of the library of the Surgeon General's office, National Bibliographies, showing what books are published in a certain contrivy in a given time, special reference works for finding naries of different countries and bibliographical works dealing with special subjects. Altogetiker there are about 3,00 volumes of reference works shelved in this department. The catalogue department attends also to the binding of books, During the past year 3,780 volumes have been sent to the Government Printing Office for bindings. It is hoped that before long the beginning of a new estatogue of the library may be nut before the pub-

fice for bindings. It is hoped that before long the beginning of a new Catalogue of the Library may be put before the pub-lic, but the force is at present inadequate and can hardly keep up with current ac

The Card Catalogue. Before a catalogue is printed, the card catalogue supplies its place. This Is contained in a large case divided off into compartments, like drawers or trays. Cards are arranged loosely in the drawers and in alphabetical order, like a dic-tionary. The cards give printed or type-written descriptions of the books, indi-cating to what class they belong. The card catalogue is used as a supplement to book catalogues, even after the latter are printed, owing to the fact that new books arrive daily, and must be entered in the catalogue. The old subject catalogue of countries each has a separate chapter, the Library is complete only down to the being the only nations thus honored; Genalogue was begun, which was discontiued in 1880, after having reached nearly to the end of letter C. After 1880 a few annual catalogues were printed. In con-nection with reclassification a shelf catalogue is being made on cards, be accompanied by an author and subject index. The cards are arranged in an or-der in the drawers corresponding exactly with the arrangement of the books on the shelves. When this catalogue is fin-ished for library, science and biblio-graphy, it is hoped that it can be made the basis for a reader's bibliographical handbook of the Library, which would form the first of a series of classed cat-

> included. The Accommodations for the Blind Renders.

alogues to precede the main subject catalogue; and after the latter becomes a re-ality, to be placed before students inter-ested in the particular class which is

A large pavilion in the northwest corner of the library has been my apart for the use of blind readers, and put in charge of Miss Etta Jossiyn Giffin. The idea of having such a department originated with Miss Helen Marr Campbell land was carried out through the efforts of Mr. Young and Mr. Hutcheson. To the privilege of reading have been added lectures mights obtain manuscript music of our mounts. reading have been added lectures, public 18,000. A large number of works are not entered in this catalogue, so that there are actually 24,000 to 25,000 accessions, ex- ament of the blind extending the scope clusive of sheet music and unbound pe- of the department so far beyond the limits originally intended, that it par-takes decidedly of the nature of a phil-anthropic work. The public readings were suggested by Mr. Hutcheson, and

see published by the Library—No. 1, from abroad, as a large majority of our copyright Law with Annotations," No. "List of Books Relating to Cuba;" No. "List of Books Relating to Cuba;" No. "Hawaii;" No. 4. "List of Maps of law. It is surprising, however, to note vented by Louis Braille in 1829; the Lu-cas stenographic system, and others. The system in most general use is the New York Point system. Without entering into a technical description of its merits it is sufficient to say that it is the easi-est read, enables books to be more con-densed and gives the blind a tangible form of writing. In one of the old sys-tems the Bible was printed in sixty-five unwieldly volumes, while, by means of the New York Point, not more than eleven smaller ones are necessary. Books for the blind are very expensive, and the Library has only about 219 volumes. The collection is growing, however, and many charitably inclined persons are endeavor-ing to secure donations to increase its number. A certain corner of the pavilion has been set apart exclusively for the use of blind readers, who, when the apply for books, are always asked what system of printing they prefer. Some important works in the collection are: The Bible printed in nearly all the systems, Irving's works, some good musical manuscripts. Plagrim's Progress. anuscripts, Pilgrim's Progress, miscelaneous poems, etc.

Music.

This is a department of which the pubic seems to know very little. Situated in the east wing of the building, at some distance from the general reading-room, it escapes the observation of casual visitors. The work is conducted by Mr. W. R. Whittlesey, superintendent, and Miss Myrta M. Mason, assistant superintendent. New music is classified as rapidly as it comes into the Library, and, as the international copyright law now brings us the productions of foreign masters from the chief musical countries, such as Germany and Italy, the department will soon be well stocked with the gems of musical compositions. Very nextly Every variety may be found in the collection, from instructions to a drum major to symphonies or orchestras. All open, stores produced agree and in Europe find their way to this lepartment, making it a reference library for the practical musicial. A piano room, urnished with an excellent piano, adjoins he main room, and the musician is sent o the former to try pieces of music ob-ained from the musical library. This enables one who desires to make purchases of music for any purpose to decide beforehand what compositions are to be preferred. A record is kept of each application for music and the kind for which a call is made. This is done in order to eswhat classes of music are most solutely necessary to prevent their gaining entrance into our homes. Santizone is not only fatal to all forms of germ ilfe, but its use usures per vit so. provements over the old Library. While in the Capitol, the music was simply piled away, with no facilities for making it accessible to the musician. The officials now in charge of the collection lay stress upon the fact that the latter is not merely on exhibition, but for practical work and daily use. In a classified collection are exhibited samples of kindergarten music, and all of the various systems, from the tonic sol fa to the latest methods. Some prominent teachers of methods. Some prominent teachers of this city, who have learned of the usefulness of this department, come to it to obtain the latest and best methods to interest pupils. The mural ornamentation of the music room is being supplemented from time to time with pictures of prominent musichans, singers and composers. Of the material available and unavailable—that is, catalogued and uncatalogued

Those who follow fashion's decrees will include numerous pieces of furniture in their list of gifts for Christmas. The advantage of something at once beautiful and useful is so apparent that furniture gifts please everyone. We reckoned on this contingency when we placed our orders during the Summer, and we resolved that we would show a finer line of articles specially adapted to gifts than any other house in the country. That our stock has already attracted a great deal of attention is evident from the fact of our having already been called upon to lay aside many pretty pieces

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two-thirds of the copyrights are foreign. There is music in the collection for every style of instrument imaginable, from piano to wind instrument, and the combinations range from duos to orchestra, and, in military music, from four trumpets to a full band. Among the treasures of the

American Indian music with such suc-cess. The department is endeavoring to obtain manuscript music of our prominent musicians. Several donations have nent musicians. Several donations have already been made, one of the most important of which is the manuscript of the latest song composed by Mr. H. A. Beach, the only woman in this country who has composed a symphony for an orchestra. These manuscripts will form the nucleus of a collection which will one day be of untold value as an exhibition of the works of American composers.

the works of American

apartment, where the manuscripts have hied themselves, to take, in one sense of the word, the "black veil." The room was selected on account of its being beyond the ken of the average sightseer, for whose benefit a number of rare manuscripts are on exhibition in glass cases in another part of the building. As manuscripts are not given out in the general reading room, this department has also a room for the use of those who may be interested in making a study of the manuscripts, or who wish to consult any one of them. A law was passed by Congress to prevent manuscripts from going beyond the confines of the Library, so that all work, even to bind them, must be done in accordance with this law. Dr. Fried-in accord yond the confines of the Library, so that all work, even to bind them, must be done in accordance with this law. Dr. Friedenwald, chief of the department, together with three or four assistants is busier with three or four assistants is ousi-ly engaged in classifying old manuscripts and arranging them on temporary shelves. Permanent cases or iron and glass are and arranging them on temporary shelves. Permanent cases or iron and glass are now in process of construction for their better preservation. Later on all manuscripts will be bound in volumes, but it will first be necessary for most of them to be repaired. There are 1,650 volumes of these treasures, and enough unbound to make as many more. Cataloguing manuscripts is peculiarly difficult, as each in
liberality of Congressive minds are replete with the germs of great designs, is it any wonder that the Library has advanced in the twinkling of an eye from the state to be commended. What it has done the future depends upon the spirit and these treasures, and enough unbound to make as many more. Cataloguing man-uscripts is peculiarly difficult, as each in-dividual one must be carefully studied, in order that the card catalogue may be intelligible. The cards are prepared by the assistants and reviewed by Dr. Friedenwald, who hopes in time to complete a perfectly arranged card catalogue of the whole collection. Efforts are being made to obtain the first manuscripts of promi-nent writers of today. Such a collection would be a most valuable legacy for future generations. The great care taken of manuscripts, and the fact that they will be kept together and preserved for all time, ought to be an inducement to those in possession of collections or single copies of rare manuscripts, to donate them to the nation's storehouse of knowl-

For the same reason, and because this is the only branch of the Government the safe keeping of manuscripts, Mr. Young is urging the necessity of transferring archives (except those of an administrative character) of the Government departments to the Library. The Toner, Force and Washington collections constitute some of the chief treasures of the departments, and the glass cases in the northwest section of the library are filled with letters, and perhaps bearing the signatures of Presidents of the Re-public. A most interesting manuscript is the "Narrative of Events in the Early History of Virginia," written in J ffer-son's small, cramped, but perfectly legi-ble handwriting. The richest deposits of these treasures relate to colonial times. Maps.

The Map Department, under the direction of Mr. P. L. Philips, has undertaken work in which no other library has engaged. It is not only making a catalogue of separate maps, but is examining every book in the Library to find all printed maps. This is being done to make a card catalogue showing where everything in the shape of a map may be

Venezuelan commission. Its members came to the Library for information, and the map department was able to refer them to every printed map bearing on the subject of their researches. At the beginning of our late war, the same aid was furnished the War Department in regard to the West Indian and Philippine Islands. Like all other departments of the Library, this one is at present making large accessions to its collection relating to above mentioned countries of Spain. It also has a fine collection, recently public and the map of the second sec It also has a fine collection, recently pub-lished, of maps relating to the Northwest Boundary Commission, Alaska and Can-

Here is the one money-making branch of the Library. Last year its receipts were \$5,376; but this small amount is of no importance in comparison with the usefulness of the copyright as a vehicle for bringing in nearly all publications for bringing in nearly all publications of this country, and much from abroad, and the protection which it affords authors. Mr. T. Solberg and his force, comexhibition of prising thirty people, are employed chiefly in recording applications for copyrights and in making out and sending certificates. A catalogue of copyrights is published weekly and bound every quarter, making four volumes per annum. Last year more than 70,000 were recorded. This

ing, allowing vast capacity for further ex-pansion, with all its branches thoroughly organized and equipped for the transac-tion of business, with a trained and effi-cient force of employes directed by offi-cials whose progressive minds are replete liberality of Congress, spurred by this de-mand, in the matter of "supply," a prin-ciple of political economy, which in all ages has made the wheels of advancement not only "go round," but SUE FITE RAMSEY.

other good and useful things.

The problem of negro education can be solved only in this way.

(From the Omaia Bee.)

The latter day Missourium is probably doing the best he can to keep up the reputation of the State for train robberiea, bits he is a humgling tyro when compared with the original artists. The last attempts have been so crude that it must make the body of Jesse James turn in its grave and the retired members of the old gaing blush for shame at the would-be imitators.

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